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PAGE 01 STATE 063959

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: PFOR, TQ

SUBJECT: MARIANAS OFFICIALS MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD

DOTA 102TT

FOLLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO MNS.

QUOTE: UNITED STATES PRESIDENT GERALD FORD MET WITH EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MPSC, AND SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1975 IN THE OVAL OFFICE AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

THE TWO MEMBERS OF THE MPSC PRESENTED THE PRESIDENT AN ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE COVENANT SIGNED LAST MONTH IN SAIPAN TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ROGERS C.B. MORTON, AND UNITED STATES DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTI-ATIONS, JAMES M. WILSON, JR. ESCORTED MESSRS. PANGELINAN AND TENORIO INTO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FOR THE HALF-HOUR SESSION.

PRESIDENT FORD AUTOGRAPHED TWO COPIES OF THE COVENANT FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 063959

HIS VISITORS. MR. PANGELINAN SAID HE PLANNED TO ATTACH THE

PAGE AUTOGRAPHED BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENT

WHICH IS KEPT IN SAIPAN.

OVER COFFEE, PRESIDENT FORD DISCUSSED HIS TRAVELS THROUGH THE MARIANAS IN THE 1940'S. HE THEN PRESENTED EACH MAN WITH A PAIR OF CUFF-LINKS BEARING THE SEAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. END QUOTE. ACTING DOTA RICE SENDS.

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To: HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

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